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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

In the Matter of)
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)
)
Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.)
Petition for Waiver of)
Section 54.313 of the Commission's Rules)
_____)

CC Docket No. 96-45

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APR 13 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

To: Wireline Competition Bureau

**PETITION FOR WAIVER
EXPEDITED TREATMENT REQUESTED**

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. ("Pine Belt"), pursuant to section 1.3 and 1.925 of the Federal Communication Commission's ("FCC's" or "Commission's") rules,¹ hereby petitions the Commission for an expedited waiver of the October 1, 2004 deadline set forth in section 54.313 of the Commission's rules for the filing of an annual certification (the "Annual Certification") regarding the proper usage of high-cost universal service ("USF") support.² Due to extraordinary circumstances of business and personal hardship, as described more fully below, the filing deadline was inadvertently missed.

Pine Belt has filed all other necessary USF-related filings on a timely basis, and had systems in place to make sure that all filings were made on a timely basis. However, as set forth below, several compelling factors, including the major natural disaster Hurricane Ivan and related power shortages and property damage, and other human factors, such as family deployments to the war in Iraq, the filing in question was not made by the October 1, 2004 date.³

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.3, § 1.925. Pursuant to § 1.1105, no filing fee applies to this request.

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.313.

³ See Declaration of John C. Nettles, President, Pine Belt Cellular, Inc., attached as Exhibit 1.

As soon as this omission was discovered during an internal review of USF compliance, the filing was made with the FCC and USAC on February 2, 2005. Pine Belt respectfully requests that the FCC accept its USF annual certification filing as timely. Grant of this petition for waiver will enable Pine Belt to receive USF payments for the first and second quarters of 2005, and allow Pine Belt to continue to provide quality service to its customers.

COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFY THIS WAIVER REQUEST

Pine Belt is small family-owned provider of cellular and personal communications services to rural and non-rural areas in Alabama. Pine Belt's affiliate, Pine Belt Telephone is a small rural local exchange company serving customers in southern Alabama. Both Pine Belt companies have a small staff of regulatory, accounting and technical professionals who allocate their time between multiple tasks for each company.

In May 2002 Pine Belt was certified by the FCC as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") for non-rural areas in Alabama.⁴ Following Pine Belt's certification, Pine Belt personnel consulted with counsel, the FCC and USAC and filed all necessary paperwork, including its certification and working loop counts, to receive universal service support.

Pine Belt set up in-house charts and tracking systems to make sure all filings were made on a timely basis, and since that time has met all its other deadlines. In ordinary times, a Pine Belt staffer would put together the filings with an October due date in mid to late September. However, in September 2004, a major natural disaster struck Alabama. On September 16, 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit southern Alabama with 90 to 130 mile an hour hurricane force winds, tracking through central Alabama, toppling trees and power lines, causing massive power

⁴ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. and Pine Belt PCS, Inc., Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 02-1252 (rel. May 24, 2002).

outages. Hurricane Ivan has been described as the worst natural disaster in Alabama's history. For example, Alabama Power's service was disrupted to more than 60 percent of its customers, and the massive surges of rain and wind caused widespread damage throughout its service territory. Alabama Power reports that Hurricane Ivan damaged 3,365 utility poles, one-fifth of the company's transmission grid, and more than 3,500 miles of power lines. In addition, 1,343 transformers were knocked out and 35 percent of the distribution feeder lines were damaged.⁵

In the midst of all this chaos, several Pine Belt employees suffered damage to their homes and personal property, and all 48 of the Pine Belt critical network and business facilities suffered damage and/or power outages. To avoid service disruption to customers, standby generators and supplemental portable generators were used to restore operations. Conventional power was not available to some cellular sites for up to 11 days. Although service to customers generally was restored within two hours of an outage through use of generator power, there was not enough generator power to perform all necessary "back office" accounting and regulatory functions, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, all financial and government reporting. Due to lack of power for computers and related software, total disruption in these functions existed from September 16 to September 23, 2004, and severe disruptions continued to occur during the next two months due to the need to have back-ups for certain software restored, and ongoing intermittent power outages even after power generally had been restored.

Of Pine Belt's 36 employees, 34 employees experienced home power outages ranging from 1-14 days, with the median outage being 6 days. Nevertheless, Pine Belt employees rose to the occasion and worked under these difficult conditions to provide service to the public. Obviously, during this time of widespread power outages, wireless communication services (for both emergency and routine uses) were critical. However, as this discussion should make clear,

⁵ Attached as Exhibit 2 are several news articles regarding the devastation of Hurricane Ivan.

the company and its employees were operating with serious limitations due to the extensive hurricane-related damage throughout its region. Power outages at the business offices made it difficult to transact business with the public, and one store was burglarized on a night when the power was out.⁶

Although Pine Belt did have emergency generator power to run critical telephone switching and other operational needs, as noted above, power was used for essential functions, and thus electrical power for back office support was limited. The employee responsible for filing USF reports did not have routine access to power to use her office computer for the late September time period.

To compound the difficulty, this employee experienced damage and power loss at her home, and she needed to cope with this crisis alone, as her husband, the Deputy Commander of his Alabama National Guard unit, was needed to assist in other disaster-related matters. Later that fall, he was deployed to Iraq.

GRANT OF THIS WAIVER REQUEST IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules specific that the Commission may grant a waiver of the application of any of its rules for "good cause shown." Section 1.925(b)(3) provides that the Commission may waive a rule when the specific facts make strict compliance with a rule inconsistent with the public interest. The Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. Courts have affirmed the Commission's power to waive its rules if special circumstances warrant waiver, and grant of the waiver serves the public interest.⁷

⁶ See Declaration of John C. Nettles, Pine Belt's President, attached as Exhibit 1.

⁷ *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1027 (1972); *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. 1990).

Pine Belt respectfully submits, in light of the compelling circumstances described above, sworn to under penalty of perjury by Pine Belt's President John Nettles,⁸ that good cause exists to grant a waiver of the Commission's rules to permit Pine Belt to receive high cost support for the first two quarters of 2005.

Section 54.313 of the Commission's rules, entitled "State certification of support for non-rural carriers," directs eligible telecommunications carriers not subject to the jurisdiction of a state that serve lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier to file an annual certification with the USAC Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high cost support will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended." The rule specifies that this Annual Certification shall be filed by October 1 to receive support for the following year.

Following its ETC certification in May 2002, Pine Belt made Annual Certification filings in 2002 and 2003, and made all other required filings with USAC from its ETC certification date to present. The difficult business and personal circumstances outlined above limited Pine Belt's ability to make a timely filing in September 2004 (to meet the October 1, 2004 deadline). Both the responsible employee, and Pine Belt's President were under the impression that the filing had been made because it had been erroneously checked off on the regulatory filings chart. It was discovered that the filing has been missed after an internal review of USF payments and compliance, and further consultation with USAC. Upon discovering that USAC had not received the filing, the responsible Pine Belt staffer discussed with USAC the options available to Pine Belt. USAC advised her to make the filing "as soon as possible" and after discussions with internal personnel and counsel, the filing was made on February 2, 2005.

Although USAC currently provides no grace period or reminder notices, it informed Pine

⁸ See Declaration of John C. Nettles at Exhibit 1.

Belt that for lack of the one page letter filing of the Annual Certification that all funding for the first and second quarters of 2005 would be withheld. This amount of funding represents a loss of approximately \$25,000 to Pine Belt, funds that otherwise could be used by Pine Belt to provide the wireless services in Alabama relied on by its customers both for routine and emergency purposes.

The loss of such funding would compound the hardships created by the unforeseen natural disaster Hurricane Ivan. Pine Belt recognizes that USAC uses the certification letters in its administrative process to determine what companies will be eligible each year for USF support. Pine Belt does not take deadlines lightly, and has worked diligently under difficult circumstances both to provide service to the public and to comply with all regulatory deadlines. Pine Belt was under the impression that the required filings had been made, and communicated by telephone promptly with USAC when it discovered a discrepancy.

USAC has received all previous certifications from Pine Belt, and is in possession of all other necessary data to make the calculations for payment, because Pine Belt has made all other necessary submissions. Therefore, Pine Belt respectfully submits that grant of this waiver will not cause undue administrative burden on the USAC or the FCC, and the benefit to the public interest outweighs any small burdens that might result. Given the unusual factual circumstances presented in this request, waiver of the rules would be not undercut the purpose of the rule, and would serve the public interest.

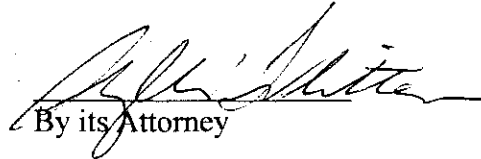
Pine Belt took reasonable steps to assure compliance in its USF filings, and, in addition, has reviewed and revised its procedures to assure that it will comply with the required deadlines in the future. Thus, Pine Belt petitions the Commission to waive the rule in the circumstances described in this Petition, because to do so would benefit customers, and would be only a minor

administrative inconvenience to USAC, because it already has all the information it needs to make the payments in question.

Therefore, for all the reasons stated above, Pine Belt respectfully requests that the Commission waive application of the deadline set forth in Section 54.313 of its rules, and treat Pine Belt's Annual Certification as timely for purposes of payment of USF support for the first and second quarters of 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.


By its Attorney

John C. Nettles, President
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Date: March 3, 2005

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1

Declaration of John C. Nettles

Exhibit 2

Hurricane Ivan News Articles

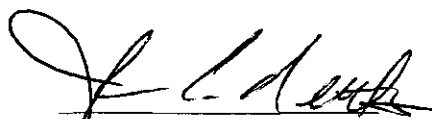
Exhibit 1

Declaration of John C. Nettles

I, John C. Nettles, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am President of Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. ("Pine Belt").
2. This Declaration is submitted in support of Pine Belt's Petition for Waiver (the "Petition").
3. I declare and certify that, as described in the Petition, during September 2004 Pine Belt experienced damage and/or power outages to all 48 its Alabama facilities, and 34 of its 36 employees experienced power outages and other storm-related hardships.
4. I further declare that I was under the impression that all necessary paperwork had been filed to receive 2005 USF support. However, when reviewing compliance efforts, I determined that the October 1, 2004 Annual Certification filing had been missed. When I conducted an investigation, I determined that all other filings had been made, but an inadvertent omission had been made during the time the responsible employee was working under conditions of storm-related hardship, both at Pine Belt and at home, as described in the Petition.
5. I further declare that, absent the requested waiver, Pine Belt will lose approximately \$25,000 in funds that otherwise would be used to provide the wireless services in Alabama relied on by its customers both for routine and emergency purposes.
6. I further declare that I have reviewed the aforementioned Petition and that the facts stated therein, of which I have personal knowledge, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

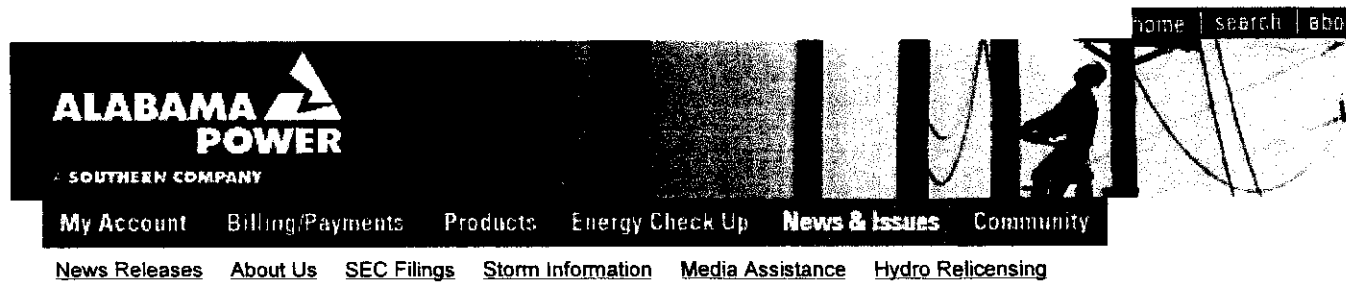
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


John C. Nettles
President

Date 3/4/2005

Exhibit 2

Hurricane Ivan News Articles



news and information

All News

EEI honors Alabama Power with 'Emergency Response Award' for recovery from hurricanes

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

WASHINGTON (Dec. 15, 2004) — The Edison Electric Institute today honored the Alabama Power Company as a winner of the association's "Emergency Response Award" for outstanding efforts to restore electric service in the wake of Hurricane Ivan, the worst natural disaster in the state's history.

With 130 mile per hour winds and a nine-foot storm surge, Ivan made landfall Sept. 16, narrowly missing the center of Mobile on Alabama's Gulf Coast yet still devastating the Mobile division and knocking out electricity to 826,000 customers.

Ivan then tracked northward through the center of Alabama, impacting virtually every area of Alabama Power's service territory and disrupting service to more than 60 percent of the company's customers. Moreover, nearly a foot of rain deluged many parts of the state, making a full-scale damage assessment impossible for nearly 48 hours. With widespread damage throughout its service territory, crews and material were needed nearly statewide, yet outside crew resources were not immediately available because of earlier hurricanes that struck Florida, and many mutual assistance workers who did arrive traveled for 2-3 days from distant states. Compounding the recovery were other logistical challenges, including hotel and motel rooms that were filled by evacuees from the Florida and Alabama coasts.

Physical damage to the company's system was extensive. Ivan damaged 3,365 utility poles, one-fifth of the company's transmission grid, along with more than 3,500 miles of power lines. In addition, 1,343 transformers were knocked out and 35 percent of its distribution feeder lines were damaged. "Nevertheless, Alabama Power was able to honor its pledge to restore electricity to 99 percent of its service territory within eight days," said EEI President Tom Kuhn in announcing the award today. "The remaining one percent was restored within 10 days, a remarkable achievement by this company under very arduous conditions."

Even before Ivan made landfall, the company had begun mobilizing for the recovery effort, and 11 staging areas quickly went up across the state, which served as command centers for the deployment of crews and resources. One of the biggest challenges facing the company was housing the 6,249 out-of-state assistance workers. In some cases, high school gyms were converted into dormitories for crew members. The company also recognized that communicating with the public was paramount. Senior company officials were regularly available to the news media, and public relations staff worked around the clock to ensure frequent updates to customers throughout the service territory.

"EEI is pleased to bestow this award on the men and women of Alabama Power, who worked tirelessly under difficult and hazardous conditions to restore electricity to their customers," Kuhn said. "Theirs is a remarkable achievement and is a hallmark of the service tradition of this industry." Alabama Power was one of five electric utility companies that were cited by Edison Electric Institute for outstanding efforts to restore electricity in the wake of four hurricanes that pounded Florida and Alabama in August and September. The other winners were Gulf Power Co., Tampa Electric Co., Florida Power & Light and Progress Energy.

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Alabama Power, Mississippi Power Assess Damage from Hurricane Ivan

Sep 16, 2004 3:18 PM

Alabama Power and Mississippi Power crews are assessing damage today caused by Hurricane Ivan. As of 8:00 am Thursday, approximately 70,000 Mississippi Power customers were out of service, primarily along the Gulf Coast. That number may increase as the storm continues to affect the northern portions of the company's service area throughout the day, according to Mississippi Power's press release.

Alabama Power personnel anticipated power outages in the wake of Hurricane Ivan to last at least a week, quite likely more. As of 10 a.m. Thursday, the company recorded its largest ever number of power outages statewide at more than 489,000. The previous record was in 1995 when Hurricane Opal hit, resulting in 476,000 outages. At 11 a.m., there were 555,694 reported outages. With Hurricane Ivan tracking the state's major population centers, the effects of this storm are widespread. As a point of reference, Alabama Power serves 386,000 customers in Birmingham Division; 220,000 in Eastern Division; 220,000 in Southern Division; 225,000 in Mobile Division; 210,000 in Western Division; and 122,000 in Southeast Division. Damage assessors will begin surveying damage in the Mobile area later today after the tropical winds move through the southwest corner of the state. There will more detailed reports as information becomes available.

In addition to Alabama Power employees and contract crews, utilities in Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania have committed crews to assist with power restoration. As of Thursday morning, Minnesota crews have also offered assistance. Those crews are en route to the region. Alabama Power will also receive support from other operating companies within the Southern Company system when they are clear from the storm's effects in their areas. (Alabama Power is a subsidiary of Southern Company.)

Outage numbers are expected to rise Thursday as the storm travels northward through Alabama. This means power outage numbers will begin to increase in the Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Gadsden and Anniston areas. Once the fury of the storm passes through these areas, damage assessors can be dispatched to assess trouble throughout the impacted areas. This will likely be midday Friday.

Furthermore, crews from a number of states that have been assisting for weeks with power restoration in south and central Florida (due to Hurricanes Charley and Frances) now are being asked to provide support in Alabama. Alabama expects to receive support from them as soon as they are released by the Florida utilities.

Mississippi Power Spokesman Kurt Brautigam said "We began experiencing outages as Ivan moved onshore last evening. Our hardest hit areas at this time are in Jackson County, which was closest to the storm's landfall."



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Approximately 50,000 Mississippi customers along the Coast lost service during the night, including those in Pascagoula, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Bay St. Louis, Gulfport and Biloxi. By early morning, outages were also occurring in the company's northern service areas, as the remnants of Ivan continued to move beyond the Coast.

"Our main focus, now that the winds have subsided along the Coast, is to assess the damage sustained by our system," said Brautigam. "We hope to know by early afternoon what we face in terms of downed trees and any structural damage. We have already dispatched assessment teams and initial work crews to begin our restoration effort.

"Although we don't know the extent of damage for sure, it's obvious our area has been impacted seriously in Jackson County. It's important to remember that there are downed power lines and other dangers everyone must be concerned with. We want to be sure to remind everyone that they need to be very cautious. We would recommend that people stay very close to home if at all possible."

Mississippi Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, serves more than 193,000 customers in 23 southeastern Mississippi counties

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Information on Federally Declared

Hurricane Ivan, One Month Later Disaster Recovery Assistance Tops \$105 Million

Release Date: October 22, 2004
Release Number: 1549-066

Printer Fr

» More Information on Alabama Hurricane Ivan

Mobile, Ala. -- In the month following Hurricane Ivan, more than 109,000 Alabama residents registered for disaster recovery assistance offered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Alabama Emergency Management (AEMA), and other federal and state agencies. Here is the rest of the story.

Disaster Response Activities

Nearly 6,000 emergency and support personnel assisted in recovery and response operations including federal and state agencies, volunteer groups, state, county and local emergency management personnel, local police and fire personnel, and the Alabama National Guard.

- Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)
 - Six US&R teams searched approximately 600 square miles and 6,168 residential commercial properties for victims
- Health and Medical Services
 - Nine Disaster Medical Assistance Teams assessed the needs of area medical facilities, assigned personnel as needed, and provided technical assistance to the State of Alabama for possible mosquito intervention
 - Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams provided animal care, treatment and
 - Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams were available to assist with identification and mortuary services.
- Public Works and Engineering: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Transportation, General Services Administration, and Department of the Interior personnel assisted in the purchase, transport and distribution of life-sustaining commodities including:
 - 15 million pounds of ice
 - 1.5 million gallons of water
 - 1.75 million Meals Ready to Eat
 - More than 46,000 tarps for self-help roof repair
 - 140 emergency generators installed at incident peak
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has removed more than one million cubic yards of debris from Butler, Escambia, Monroe and Mobile Counties.
- U.S. Forest Service
 - Deployed eight debris strike teams with bulldozers and chainsaws.
 - Provided helicopter support to enable US&R teams, supported by Immigration Customs Enforcement, to provide rapid response for victim search.
 - Established a base-camp to feed, house and support 180 emergency responders.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Assessed areas for hazardous debris, then recovered and removed it.
- Mass Care

- American Red Cross, Salvation Army
 - Number of Shelters: 48
 - Persons sheltered: 4,634
 - Requests for assistance: 2,400
 - Meals and snacks served: 763,670
- Volunteer Mobile Hotline
 - 2,400 people have called for assistance
 - 674 people have been helped to obtain and/or install self-help tarps
- Department of Defense
 - Provided aerial and ground reconnaissance, as well as aerial imagery and damage assessment teams.
- Alabama National Guard troops, primarily deployed in Baldwin County, worked dist points and assisted local law enforcement with security. 100 National Guard armor used as evacuation shelters.
- Alabama Mutual Aid System\
 - 16 incident Support teams, 240 persons, supported state/county Emergency Management Agency offices.
 - 5 Medical Rescue Teams, 75 persons.
 - 1 Heavy Rescue Team, 15 persons.
- Alabama Department of Public Health worked with the American Red Cross and th Department of Human Resources to coordinate shelters for 100,000 people.
 - 295 shelters, including 8 for special needs and 118 Armories, were opened
 - Public Health nurses and social workers were located in all shelters around
- Alabama Department of Agriculture deployed 197 field personnel, including four Ve Diagnostic Laboratories with 24 portable catch pens.
- Alabama Department of Public Safety response, 975 persons, included 240 state t deputies, 45 ABI agent, 600 sheriff's deputies and law enforcement officers, 55 sw
- 9 Alabama Department of Transportation Maintenance Divisions supported respon in south Alabama.

Disaster Recovery Activities

- Total Disaster Assistance: \$105.3 million.
- 107,453 people have applied for assistance.
- \$95.3 million has been approved to help individuals and households recover.
 - \$53.5 million has been approved to date to help individuals find temporary l and do minor repairs to make their primary residences safe and habitable a
 - \$38.7 million has been approved for other disaster-related needs not cover insurance or other programs.
- 67,046 Housing Inspections completed.
 - 207 housing inspectors active.
- Temporary Housing: 21 travel trailers now occupied; 109 units have been shipped area. Additional units will be made available, as needs arise.
- More than \$2 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters and bus has been approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), which has is 62,643 applications.
- 22,762 people have visited Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) to receive informati disaster assistance.
- 13 DRCs currently are situated in the following locations:
 - Baldwin County, Gulf Shores and the Daphne Recreational Center; Chocta Butler; Clarke County, Grove Hill; Conecuh County, Evergreen; Dallas Cou Escambia County, Atmore and Brewton; Jefferson County, Birmingham; Mo County, Saraland and Coden; Monroe County, Monroeville; Wilcox County,
- 126 Community Relations and Outreach Officers have visited each of the 65 decla counties and
 - made 96,100 visits to residents, factories, local leaders, businesses and other esta
 - 79 Officers continue to monitor county activities.
- \$261,863 in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). has been distributed.
 - People living or working in any of the disaster-declared jurisdictions whose Hurricane Ivan has affected, may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment As
 - Individuals may visit their nearest office for more information, or call 866-22
- \$7.3 million in disaster emergency food stamps have been provided through the Al Department of Industrial Relations through a grant from the U.S. Department of Ag
- \$393, 963 was allocated to fund "Operation Rebound," enabling a statewide hotline outreach program for Crisis Counseling.
 - Information is available on the nearest crisis-counseling center by calling to

832-0952

- 46 counties are eligible for Public Assistance funding: Autauga, Baldwin, Bibb, Butl Choctaw, Clarke, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crensha Cullman, Dale, Dallas, De Kalb, Elmore, Escambia, Franklin, Geneva, Greene, Hal Jefferson, Lamar, Lawrence, Lee, Lowndes, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, M Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscal Washington, Wilcox, and Winston
 - 163 "kick-off" meetings with public officials have been held.
- Mitigation: FEMA and the state continue to work together to assure that the next tir strikes Alabama residents will be better prepared to protect their families and propo
 - 18,000 publications about how to rebuild stronger and safer have been dist
 - 14 mitigation counselors are providing services in 13 Disaster Recovery Ce (DRCs).
 - The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) mitigation teams are working and county officials to determine ways to reduce and/or eliminate long-term people and property along coastal and other waterways.
 - 4,777 NFIP Claims have been filed.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is on site as the federal government's prim. of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps hor renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuild and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. SBA disaster I for losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recovery assistance.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEA continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incide also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen C National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

Last Updated: Friday, 22-Oct-2004 18:45:53

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FEMA 500 C Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20472 Phone: (202) 566-1600

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2004

Ivan's wind hit 110

National Weather Service sources say the eye of Hurricane Ivan passed directly over the center of Wilcox County shortly before dawn Thursday with wind speeds ranging between 90 and 110 miles per hour.

The first band of wind came out of the east around 4:30 a.m. flattening trees throughout the county. A short calm just at dawn was followed quickly with stronger winds out of the south which laid timber down at another angle as power lines were stripped from their poles everywhere.

It is estimated that upwards of \$3 million in damage was done locally not including a massive loss of timber which will take a generation to regrow.

Power companies from Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and several others are still here assisting Alabama Power Company in the restoration of service. They are moving quickly but some areas still have days to go.

Wilcox Co. Progressive Era (newspaper)
Camden, Alabama

Two and a half times last year's harvest damaged by storm

Hurricane Ivan Hammers South Alabama

By Bruce Springer

Alabama Forestry Commission Analyst

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has completed an aerial survey, mapping, and damage assessment of the commercial forestland in Alabama. While there was scattered timber damage throughout the state, a more detailed assessment was conducted in southwest Alabama, which was most severely affected by Hurricane Ivan.

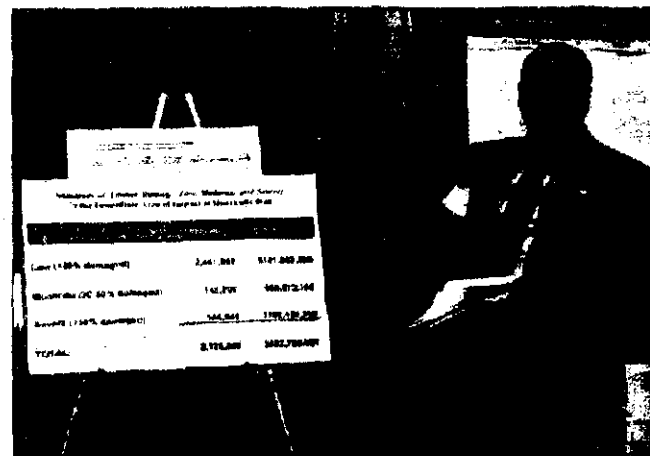
AFC conducted the detailed assessment in 12 counties: Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, Geneva, Mobile, Monroe and Wilcox. Nine of the 12 counties had moderate to severely damaged forest areas.

Approximately 196,376 acres of commercial forestland were moderately damaged and 188,584 acres were severely damaged. These 12 counties contain approximately 2,728,80 acres of merchantable forestland, which incurred a potential estimated damage of \$473,277,304 if not harvested. In addition, the AFC estimates 9,073,600 acres of merchantable forestland in 55 counties declared disaster areas outside the 12-county immediate impact area incurred damage amounting to \$136,950,609. The total damage in Alabama caused by Ivan is estimated to be \$610,227,913.

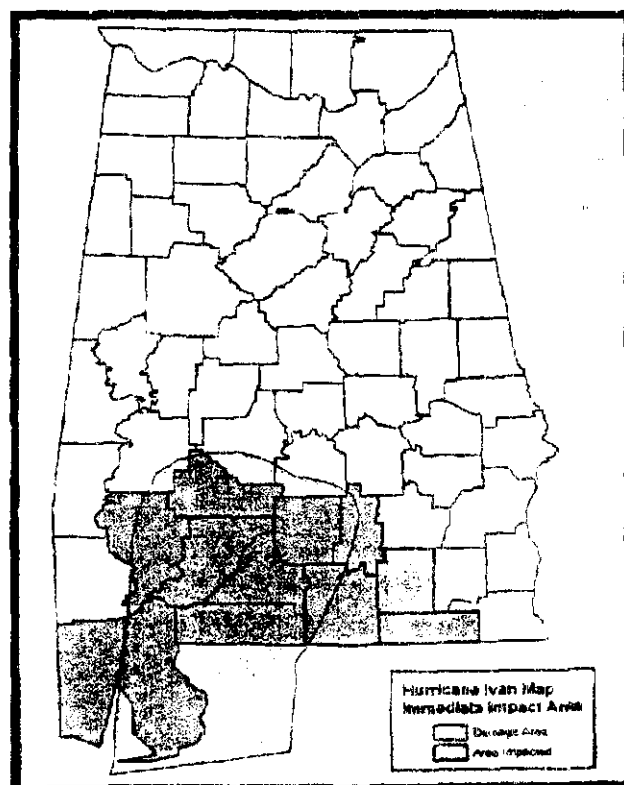
Non-industrial private landowners own approximately 74 percent of this commercial forestland. (Approximately 11 percent is located on farms and 63 percent is not on farms). Forest-related industry owns 22 percent of the commercial forestland in the assessment area. Government, primarily the State of Alabama, owns the remaining 4 percent of the damaged timber in the assessment area.

To put the damaged timber value in perspective, the stumpage value of wood that was harvested and processed in the 12-county assessment area during 2003 was approximately \$193,715,000. AFC estimates that the damaged timber from Hurricane Ivan is 2.44 times more than what was harvested last year in the assessment area!

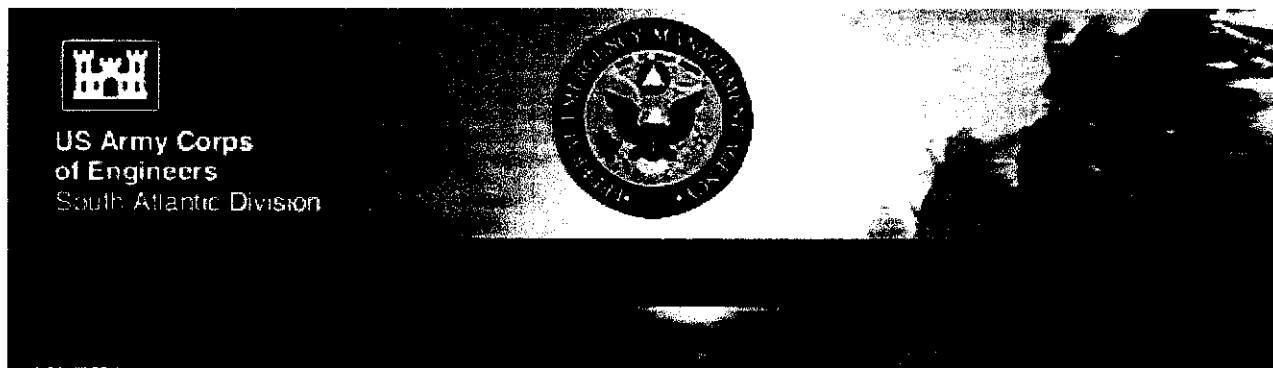
The entire Ivan report can be viewed on the AFC website http://forestry.state.al.us/Forest_Management/Ivan/Ivan.htm. In addition to the website, the AFC has also set up a hotline that landowners can call for information. The number is 1-888-645-7237. Landowners can also call the Alabama Forestry Association at 1-800-206-0981 or log on to www.alaforestry.org/ivan.



AFC Analyst Bruce Springer explains storm damage at October 5 Alabama Forest Recovery Task Force Meeting.



Above shows the 12 counties hardest hit by Hurricane Ivan in yellow and the area of greatest destruction within that area in pink. Obviously, there was also a good deal of damage outside of the depicted area as well.


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Affected by Recent Hurricanes?

If your area has received a Federal Disaster Declaration: Register for Disaster Assistance by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired. [\[More Info\]](#)

Want to see Corps News? Visit our [Headquarters website](#)

Photo Gallery

(Click on the Hurricane name to view images)



Hurricane
Charley



Hurricane
Frances



Hurricane
Ivan

Hurricane Ivan in Alabama

- **Debris Management** - When a big storm hits, there is so much debris from downed trees and damaged structures, that it can overwhelm local public works departments. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a contract with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., a large waste management firm. Counties can choose to have Phillips & Jordan manage their debris cleanup effort. They can also choose to receive technical assistance from Corps contracting specialists if they decide to contract for the work themselves. The Corps will help counties remove debris from public rights of way and to haul, reduce, and dispose of debris in accordance with environmental requirements. The Corps has no authority to work on private properties. To date, cities in Baldwin, Mobile and Escambia counties have requested the Corps contractor to assist with their storm debris cleanup. Small businesses or independent contractors can subcontract with Phillips & Jordan to help with the debris cleanup effort. Those who are interested in such work should go on line at <http://disaster.pandj.com/primaries/subcon.html> or call 813-783-1132 to speak with someone at the 24-hour contracting help desk.
- **Tarps for Self-Help Roof Repair** - The Corps has ordered tarps that people can use to make temporary roof repairs on their own. As they arrive, these tarps are being delivered to 13 affected counties for distribution. We will be releasing information about distribution as soon as supplies are on the ground.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hurricane Ivan Recovery Mission



Mobile, Ala. – Brian Miles (far left), emergency power team specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, manages power generator distribution and installation during Hurricane Ivan Relief Operations in Southern Alabama. The industrial generators provided power to critical public facilities such as hospitals, emergency shelters and water treatment plants. Miles and his fellow Corps of Engineers members deployed to Alabama from around the country and have supported the Federal Emergency Management

- **Temporary Housing** - The Corps has been asked to assist FEMA in finding sites where mobile homes or travel trailers can be placed, and to identify sites on public lands that can be developed as mobile home parks for temporary housing. FEMA supplies temporary housing for people who have been permanently displaced by disasters.

Agency with 24-hour recovery operations.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Jonas Jordan.

Hurricane Updates

- Hurricane Charley
- Hurricane Frances
- Hurricane Jeanne

Situation

Hurricane Ivan crossed the coast around 0300 EDT, 16 September just west of Gulf Shores, AL as a Category III hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 115 mph with higher gusts. Remnants of Tropical Depression Ivan continued to bring rainy weather with tornadoes and flooding in portions of eastern FL, AL, GA, WV, PA and OH.

Mission

FEMA Regions authorized 33 Post Declaration missions in FL, AL, MS, LA, GA, PA, OH and WV totaling (\$178.675M); Regional Activation (\$2.915); Ice (\$30.525M); Water (\$12.25M); Power (\$5.8 M); DTOS (\$525K); Debris (\$71.825M) Logistics (\$1M); Temporary Roofing (\$53.5M); Temporary Housing (\$6M); ERRO (\$2M); Technical Assistance (\$1.125M); Housing - Emergency Group Sites (\$4.0M); GIS Support (\$280K); Temporary Schools (\$1M); Geotechnical (\$5K); Emergency Debris/Culvert (\$6M); Provide DSR/PW writers (\$900K). FEMA-1557-DR, PA Disaster Declaration was issued on 9/19/04 and FEMA-1558-DR, WV Disaster Declaration was issued on 9/20/04.

Execution

AL: Debris Removal Operations: 1,975,456 CY (81%) of 2.25M CY removed in 5 Alabama counties. Temp Housing: Current projected requirement is 400 travel trailers; received requests for 199 trailers, 166 trailers delivered, and 159 ready for occupancy. FL: Roofing: Estimated 47,000 roofs require repair; ROE's: 49,685 (106%) collected; 43,231 (91%) roofs completed. FL Emergency Group Site (EGS): Residents moving into 200 travel trailers at Saufley Field while routine maintenance is underway; all trailers at Builders Square site while routine maintenance is underway. Westwood and Ft. Walton - lease agreement signed, construction starts as soon as environmental documentation is complete. Pensacola Junior College - 52 trailers ready for occupancy, families scheduled to began moving in on 2 Nov 04. 38 of the second group of 52 trailers are on site and installation is underway. Century - site prep is underway. Ft Walton, Old Bagdad, Navarre Sports Complex, Farmers Oprey, and Tiger Point Recreation Area are in initial stages of lease agreements, and environmental and design phase. Temp. Schools (FL): mission complete. OH: Completed debris removal from 6 sites in Belmont City; work at 4 sites ongoing. PA: Emergency culvert repair: soil stabilization is 40% complete; design of culvert repair is ongoing; and utilities relocation is 90% complete. WV: Completed assessment of six trailer parks that were flooded, as potential travel trailer sites. Dedication for 20 available pads as scheduled 22 October 04. Estimating quantity of debris for removal (Debris QA and Project Worksheet) continue in WV.

Staffing

318 (SAD operation) & 42 (LRD operation) USACE personnel supporting this event.

Command & Signal

South Atlantic Division (SAD) and Great Lakes & Ohio River Division (LRD) are the Supported Divisions. Two ERRO's are established; one located in Mobile, AL (Commander is LTC Jones), and one located at Duke Field, Eglin AFB (Commander is LTC Goetz).



The Selma Times-Journal

Serving Selma and The Black Belt Since 1827

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TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2005 Last modified: Saturday, September 18, 2004 10:46 PM CDT

EMA Director says Dallas County one of hardest hit

By Steven Jones
Times-Journal City Editor

When Dallas County Emergency Management Agency Director Brett Howard woke up, he was already at work.

He'd spent the night at the Dallas County EMA for the last few days and he expects to continue the practice for a few more.

Immediately upon opening, the calls started announcing the next crisis to come out of Hurricane Ivan.

"We're one of the hardest hit county's in the state," Howard said.

As of Thursday morning, 90 percent of Dallas County was without power, about 37,000 people. In Selma alone, 18,500 people were in the dark.

When Friday came, most of them were calling Howard to let him know every problem that occurred after the hurricane hit.

Lines were down, roads blocked and, worst of all, the North Dallas County Water Authority was without power.

"People are going to have to start boiling water," Howard said to one caller. "I'm one generator short of keeping this county in water."

He spent the rest of the morning attempting the herculean task of securing a generator for the well pumps of North Dallas.

Howard got the job done

Now, Dallas County doesn't have a problem with water.

"Selmont Water Works did a great job of keeping water flowing," he said.

The Dallas County Emergency Management Agency is ground central for any disaster that strikes the county.

Howard's job is to coordinate assistance and cleanup efforts to Dallas County residents through the storm, and especially after.

"I've got the volunteer fire departments cleaning up roadways, I've got 16 deputies out there today (assessing damage)," Howard said. "It's (Dallas County) already been declared for disaster relief."

EMA officials completed a preliminary damage count on Saturday. Officials said that 435 homes and 32 businesses were also damaged. The American Red Cross currently has several teams working on a more complete assessment of the storm's damage.

Howard will spend the next few days making sure everyone's problems are dealt with as quickly as possible.

Despite these problems, Howard knows the county was lucky.

"We didn't get near the rainfall we expected," he said.

Rainfall totals for Wednesday were six inches.

Soon after the hurricane, emergency communications were back online.



EMA Director Brett Howard works the phone.



UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS-- Thieves hit the Radio Shack again Thursday night while power was off all over town. Store manager Sandy Curl said several thousand dollars worth of high-end electronic items were taken after the thieves broke through a front door.

Wilcox County Progressive Era (news paper)
Camden, Alabama
September 22, 2004

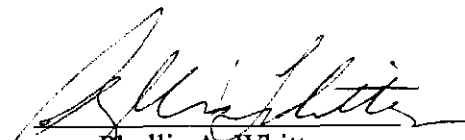
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Phyllis A. Whitten, hereby certify that on this 3rd day of March 2005 copies of the foregoing Petition for Waiver were delivered by Hand Delivery to those marked (*) and by First Class mail to the following:

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